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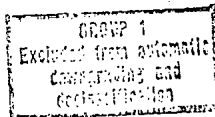
Director
National Reconnaissance Office
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Flax:

Now that the National Reconnaissance Program has been reorganized through the agreement of 13 August 1965, I would like to resolve a long-standing problem dealing with one aspect of the overall endeavor. This has to do with improving the coordination and cooperation between the developers and operators of reconnaissance systems on the one hand, and the exploiters of the imagery produced from these systems on the other. Although there have been, over the years, many informal and semi-formal relationships between the collectors of reconnaissance imagery and the major exploiters, principally the National Photographic Interpretation Center, I think there is a need to provide a more formal relationship between them.

The importance of this problem became very evident to me during a recent review of the budget estimates for NPIC for the next five years. Based in part on estimates provided by your office, NPIC indicates that a large increase in manpower and exploitation equipment will be required if the Government is to realize the benefits from the great strides

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being made in reconnaissance technology. Since management decisions made during the conceptual and developmental stages of a reconnaissance program activity can have a marked effect on the exploitation process, I am sure you will agree it is only prudent that we take steps to ensure that consideration of exploitation requirements becomes an integral part of the standard operating procedure of the Departments and Agencies assigned collection program responsibilities.

From the exploitation side, I have asked Mr. Lundahl, as Director of the National Photographic Interpretation Center, to clearly set forth his requirements and to provide the technical advice and assistance necessary to help ensure delivery of products susceptible to the highest degree of exploitation possible. NPIC personnel should be integrated into the collection system development from the conceptual and design phases forward. Operating in this manner we shall achieve a more integrated systems design effort and place the exploiter in a much better position to expeditiously process and analyze the great volumes of material which will be forthcoming. Mr. Lundahl is prepared to designate whatever technical personnel are necessary to work directly with reconnaissance systems planners and their contractors.

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I am enclosing a proposed agreement between us establishing the ground rules for integrating collection and exploitation planning efforts. If this agreement is acceptable to you, I will have Mr. Lundahl get in touch with Mr. Reber to implement it.

Please let me know if this is acceptable to you or, if not, what changes you suggest.

Sincerely,

W. F. Raborn

Enclosure: a/s

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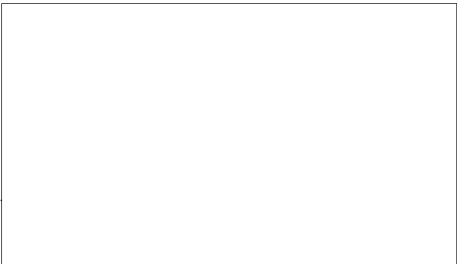

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23 Nov 65AGREEMENT FOR INTEGRATING NATIONAL EXPLOITATION
REQUIREMENTS INTO RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS PLANNINGA. Introduction

1. The National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) has as a basic objective the collection of photography and other imagery materials to be exploited for intelligence information. As the major recipient of these materials, the National Photographic Interpretation Center has as its basic objective the exploitation of photography and other imagery materials to meet requirements of the intelligence community for intelligence information contained in these materials.

2. By agreement between the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence on 13 August 1965, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) was assigned responsibility for executing the NRP under the direction and control of the Secretary of Defense and the guidance of the Executive Committee including authority to:

- a. Initiate, approve, modify, redirect, or terminate all research and development programs in the NRP.
- b. Require Agencies and Departments of the Government to keep NRO fully informed of all programs and activities undertaken as part of NRP.

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3. Since NRO and NPIC have common objectives as respectively the collector and exploiter of reconnaissance materials, close coordination and cooperation between them is essential to the successful accomplishment of their basic mission of meeting the intelligence needs of the Government. The design, development, and operation of collection vehicles, cameras, film, and the utilization of supporting computers by the collectors can have great effects on the exploitation process in terms of manpower, timeliness, and equipment. To ensure optimum results from the combined efforts of the collectors and exploiters of reconnaissance materials, it is essential that the requirements of the exploiters be integrated into the design of collection systems and that the effects on the exploitation process of management decisions of the NRP be given full consideration.

B. National Reconnaissance Office

To implement the policy objectives stated above, the NRO will:

1. Promptly notify NPIC of actions taken by the Executive Committee and the Secretary of Defense in assigning development responsibilities among components of the Government for specific reconnaissance programs.

2. Arrange for the earliest possible participation of NPIC technical teams in the conceptual planning, design and development of reconnaissance systems.

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3. Grant necessary operational security clearances requested by the Director of NPIC for NPIC personnel participating in the integrated systems design and in the planning for exploitation of the resultant reconnaissance materials.

C. National Photographic Interpretation Center

To provide guidance, assistance, and advice on exploitation requirements to Government components assigned reconnaissance program responsibilities, NPIC will:

1. In coordination with other appropriate imagery exploitation components of the Government, develop technical and procedural requirements pertaining to imagery exploitation for incorporation in collection systems design and operation.

2. Provide for the participation of technical personnel, including photogrammetrists, imagery analysts, computer personnel, and other specialists as necessary in the development of reconnaissance systems.

3. Provide evaluations of systems performance in meeting the technical and procedural aspects of imagery exploitation.

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